

261—174.6 (15) Qualifying wage threshold requirements—effective on or after July 1, 2012. 2012 Iowa Acts, House File 2473, (“the Act”) became effective on July 1, 2012. Among other things, the Act changed the qualifying wage thresholds applicable to HQJP and the EZ program. As of July 1, 2012, the qualifying wage thresholds described in this rule shall be in effect.

174.6(1) *Enterprise zone (EZ) program.* The qualifying wage threshold requirement applicable to the EZ program is 90 percent of the laborshed wage.

174.6(2) *High quality jobs program (HQJP).* The qualifying wage threshold requirement applicable to HQJP is 120 percent of the laborshed wage.

174.6(3) *HQJP projects in distressed areas.*

a. Notwithstanding subrule 174.6(2), the qualifying wage threshold requirement applicable to an HQJP project may be lowered to 100 percent of the laborshed wage if the eligible business is located in an economically distressed area.

b. For purposes of this subrule, “economically distressed area” means a county that ranks among the bottom 25 of all Iowa counties, as measured by either the average monthly unemployment level for the most recent 12-month period or the average annualized unemployment level for the most recent five-year period.

c. The authority will update the list of economically distressed areas according to the same schedule as the qualifying wage thresholds are updated pursuant to subrule 174.2(1) and will apply the provisions of subrule 174.2(2) to the list of economically distressed areas in the same manner.

174.6(4) *Economic development set aside (EDSA) program.* The qualifying wage threshold requirement applicable to the EDSA program is 90 percent of the laborshed wage.